

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. This listing of claims shall replace all prior versions and listings of the claims.

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving at a computing device at least one risk/return preference that is provided by ~~an a~~ user;

selecting, based on the at least one risk/return preference, ~~an instrument from a~~ plurality of instruments comprising at least one equity instrument and at least one fixed return instrument;

storing at a computing device the selected plurality of instruments in an investment trust, in which the investment trust comprises ~~a~~ the plurality of selected instruments and is traded on an exchange, ~~and in which the at least one equity instrument and the at least one fixed return instrument of the investment trust may be traded separately from the~~ investment trust;

tracking by a computing device a performance of each of the selected plurality of instruments on the exchange;

storing at a computing device the performance of each of the selected plurality of instruments in a database, in which the database comprises a plurality of performances for each of the selected plurality of instruments of the investment trust; and

determining by a computing device, based on the performances, to trade at least one share of the investment trust, ~~in which the at least one share corresponds to a percentage of ownership in each selected instrument of the investment trust~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising

determining, based on ~~the a~~ performance of at least one of the selected plurality of instruments, to trade the at least one selected instrument, in which the selected instrument fails to meet at least one of the risk/return preferences provided by the user; and

transmitting by a computer processor a request to trade the selected at least one instrument on the exchange.

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which the performance of a one of the selected plurality of instruments comprises at least one of:

- a value of the selected instrument in real-time; and
- a value of the selected instrument over a period of time.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, further comprising calculating a value of each of the selected plurality of instruments in the investment trust;

adjusting the value of each selected instrument by an external factor;
generating an aggregate value of the investment instrument, in which the aggregate value is derived from the adjusted value of each selected instrument in the investment trust; and

transmitting a request to sell each share of the investment trust at the aggregate value on the exchange.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, in which the external factor comprises at least one of:

- a cost of managing the selected instrument;
- an income accrued from the selected instrument; and
- a fee associated with clearing custody.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
determining that one of the selected plurality of instruments has expired;
selecting a second instrument from the database, in which the second instrument comprises a risk/return preference that is similar to that of the expired instrument;

transmitting a request to purchase the second instrument on the exchange; ~~and~~
removing the expired investment instrument from the investment trust; and
storing the second instrument in the investment trust.

8-16. (Cancelled).

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, in which ~~each the plurality of~~
~~instruments comprises an intellectual property right and~~ at least one of:

a stock, a bond, a debt instrument, an exchange traded-fund, a mutual fund, a currency, a commodity, an equity investment, a futures investment, a futures contract, and a dividend-paying investment, ~~an intellectual property right~~; a right to receive royalties, a real property, or a personal property.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, in which the risk/return preference comprises at least one of:

a growth in equity that is selected by the user,
a rate of return that is selected by the user, and

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising
receiving a request to redeem the investment trust;
calculating a value of the investment trust; and
converting the investment trust into the value in cash.

20. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a processor; and
a memory, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 1.

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 2.

22. (Cancelled).

23. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 4.

24. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 5.

25. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 24, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 6.

26. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 7.

27. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 17.

28. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 18.

29. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20, in which the memory stores instructions which, when executed by the processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 19.

30. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture comprising:
a storage medium, in which the storage medium stores instructions which, when executed by a processor, direct the processor to perform the method of claim 1.

31. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the intellectual property right comprises a right to receive royalties on a copyright.

32. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein the intellectual property right comprises a right to receive royalties on a patent.